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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,628	12/14/2001	Timothy Calvin Visser	Smiths P177US	9214
7590	05/19/2006		EXAMINER	
VARNUM, RIDDERING, SCHMIDT & HOWLETT LLP			CHARIOUI, MOHAMED	
P.O. BOX 352			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501			2857	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/020,628	VISSER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mohamed Charioui	2857	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hasegawa (JP 60246128).

Hasegawa teaches applying a voltage signal of a predefined level to said eternal connecting pin and restoring a faulty connection between said external connecting pin and elements of said integrated circuit device as a result of said application of said voltage signal, subject to the condition that said external connecting pin is not completely disconnected from said elements of said integrated circuit device (see Abstract).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1 and 2** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabele et al. (U.S. 5,991,521) in view of Hasegawa (JP 60246128).

Gabele et al. teach using an integrated circuit programming device, executing a device read command (see col. 4, lines 4-45); obtaining an error message from the programming device identifying certain of the connecting pins appearing to be disconnected from a memory circuit element (see col. 4, lines 22-30).

Gabele et al. fails to teach connecting a voltage to said certain of said connecting pins appearing to be disconnected from the memory circuit element and applying a voltage signal to the certain of the connecting pins for a predetermined period of time and restoring faulty connections between the memory circuit element and at least one of the connecting pins appearing to be disconnected from the memory circuit element.

Hasegawa teaches this feature (see Abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Hasegawa's teaching into Gabele et al.'s invention, because a voltage signal would be applied to the pins that appear to be disconnected from the circuit. Therefore, current would flow through the pins to power up the elements connected by the pins to the rest of the circuit.

3. **Claims 3-6** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabele et al. (U.S. 5,991,521) in view of Hasegawa (JP 60246128) and Laing et al. (U.S. 5,399,975).

Gabele et al. in view of Hasegawa teach the system as stated above except that the step of applying comprises applying the signal to the certain connecting pins through a resistor.

Laing et al. teach this feature (see col. 2, line 57 to col. 3, line 4). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Laing et al.'s teaching into Gabele et al. in view of Hasegawa's teaching, because the voltage would be applied to the pin through a resistor that would limit the current flowing through the pins. Therefore, system would not experience excess of current flow that might cause damage in the system.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohamed Charioui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2213. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mohamed Charioui

5/2/06


MARC S. HOFF
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